

Fictional Dictionary of Bad Language

A collection of words that can safely be used when bad language is needed but real swearing is not acceptable.

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Version :0.5.1

Sometimes, in fiction writing, you need a suitably exotic insult or swear but for reasons of readership, self-censorship or design the use of swears and insults common to your culture are not suitable for your characters to use. After all, we all swear¹ but sometimes in creative fiction while a situation may call for a good cathartic outburst the language usually reserved for it is not available.

This dictionary provides a resource that fills that gap. Most of the words and phrases provided here are not (currently) naturally occurring idioms or, sometimes, even real words and therefore can be used in fictional future or alternative contexts with relative impunity. Where the phrases come from other languages or times those languages are indicated in case you need to avoid offending readers with wide ranging language skills.

Generally, you are advised to follow the rule of thumb that less is more with fictional swears. However it's your chiffling story so who am I to tell you what to do?

You are free to use as many words as you wish from this collection (along with their definitions) so long as you credit the source. That said, if you use one or two in your novel, a mention in the dedication will do fine. You are not, however, permitted to reproduce the entire work or a substantial portion thereof without the author's permission.

A Brief History

In, I don't know but let us say, 2014² I decided to write down some invented swears for use in my fiction writing. This became the fictional dictionary of bad language.

This is not the "dictionary of fictional bad language" because that would suggest I researched other mediums and wrote down all the great swears other people had invented. That is a cool idea, and I would read it, but this is not that.

0.0.x – any number of early drafts that should only exist on my hard drive.

0.1.0 – the first version I showed anyone (I think)

0.1.x – minor improvements and stuff

0.2.x – the first update with more words

0.3.x – I guess I added even more words (I do not recall now)

0.4.0 – released sometime in 2016 or before

0.4.1 – made the formatting more consistent, added commas, also added about 10 more words

0.5.1 – New words & formatting changes; the last update should have been 0.5 so I fast forwarded.

1 <http://psychcentral.com/blog/archives/2009/03/30/why-do-we-swear/>

2 All I know for sure is that it was pre-2015.

Dictionary

Arschkriecher

This is a compound German word. It really does mean arse/ass kisser but it was too wonderful a word to miss out. Perhaps it might anglicise in fiction to **Ascreeker** or similar. If you come up with a variant for use in your fiction I would love to hear about it.

Anfractuous verbal constellate

1. Using a lot of words to say something simple. Generally in such a way that makes the text impossible to read.
2. This dictionary.

Anfractuous is a real word, it means winding or circuitous and constellate means to gather together in a cluster or group. Thus, this is, a self demonstrating description.

Ankle Licker

1. A low ranking lackey who will do anything that a superior, to which they have attached themselves, says in order to try and gain advancement but, perhaps through stupidity, are unaware that they are being trodden upon and/or used.
2. The person on the floor before you, begging for forgiveness. They really are very sorry.

Bibblist

1. A person who continues to drink their beverage as loudly as possible even after you have threatened to beat them to death with it.
2. The sort of pretentious *chiff box* that insists on loudly sipping wine to show how much they are appreciating it. See also *chiff*.

Bibble means to eat or drink noisily.

Bobsy-die

A great deal of fuss or trouble.

This old phrase is in the Oxford English Dictionary.

Bodoh (Bo Doh)

Literally the Indonesian for foolish. Has the added advantage of being able to say it in a way that expresses just how dumb you find the other person.

Bourgeois Hamster

Someone who despite all attempts to pretend to be social upwardly mobile is still, a nothing and likely to remain so. Sometimes refers to a trophy wife or mistress (often from a poor background) lacking in intelligence and/or social grace and likely to be discarded as soon as her looks fade. Thus, despite her attempts to be bourgeois, she is a toy or pet in a gilded cage, kept at home and not let out much; as such she has a short “life expectancy” (much like a hamster).

By St. Boogar and all the saints at the backside door of purgatory

An exclamation of surprise or determination. Actually there is no such saint as St. Boogar. This swear is, I understand, a line from Sterne's "Tristram Shandy"³ said to have a homoerotic subtext and published in 1759. Given it's age, this ripe little exclamation is well and truly in the public domain and might best be used to make you (and perhaps your character) appear to be "well read".

Caballine

Often used of a woman and frequently followed by another equally disparaging slur. This is an obscure English word which refers to something that is of, like, pertaining to, or particularly suited to a horse.

Example usage: "You, madam, are a **caballine** faced fraud."

Caboched Monkey

A general purpose insult indicating that the person is unattractive, particularly that they have a short neck and/or a body that is not note worthy. Particularly applies to men with very large beards so that all you can see is the face. When an heraldic animal is caboched it is shown in full face with no neck or body.

Example usage: "He called the biker a **caboched monkey** – it did not go down very well"

Calyxed Mutton

Dressed in fine clothes but being ugly nevertheless. Calyx is the outer covering of a flower and mutton is a tough undesirable meat. Echoes of "mutton dressed up as lamb". Variants might replace mutton with something cruder.

Example usage: "She examined herself in the mirror. The dress was the prettiest she had ever worn but she felt like **calyxed mutton**."

Charley Foxtrot

From the International Radiotelephony Spelling Alphabet for C and F. When multiple plans pile into each other and things go south, the situation is beyond the commander's control having gone to hell in a hand basket, the troops are now involved in a Cluster F--- resulting in utter chaos with no clear way out. If multiple such situations pile into each other you have the rare and dreaded **three-way Charley Foxtrot** in which case praying might be called for, followed by body-bags.

Chiff

An all purpose swear with no fixed meaning. **Chiff-head** (mean person), **chiff-for-brains** (stupid person), **pile of chiff** (useless), **chiff-off** (get lost, go away), **to give a chiff** (to care), **chiff-you** (general aggression), **what-the-chiff** (exclamation of surprise), **chiff box** (unpleasant, unliked, and full of chiff)...

Chiffing

See also chiff.

Multi-purpose active form of chiff. **Chiffing hell** (exclamation of supprise), **abso-chiffing-lutely** (yes and then some), **no-chiffing-way** (nope, nope, nope), **all the chiffing time** (always)...

3 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Life_and_Opinions_of_Tristram_Shandy_Gentleman

Chiff(ing) up

1. To make a mess of things through error. “You really **chiffed it up** this time”.
2. To pay. “Time to **chiff up** or ship out”.

Dag hag

A person (usually a woman) who has made no effort whatsoever with their appearance and simply doesn't care what you think.

A dag is a dirty tatted tuft of sheep's wool.

Doryphore

A pedantic and annoyingly persistent critic of others. This is a real word. A noun if you must know.

Dicken Bauch

1. A fat person.
2. A person who is always eating or has an impressive appetite.

This is literally the German for “fat belly” but I am not aware of it's use as an idiom in that language. I can just imagine an “all you can eat” restaurant offering a “Dicken Bauch Menu” in the cheaper parts of town.

Divaricate Truther

1. A person who uses statistics in a way that does not wholly support the point they are making.
2. One whose use of “facts” is questionable at best.

Divaricate means to stretch or spread apart.

Drum Thumper

A person who harps on about a subject long past the point others have started to hope that the ground opens up and swallows them.

Entomophagist

1. A gormless fool that just sits there with their mouth open.
2. Someone who has eating habits so bizarre, you would not be surprised if they ate insects.

Entomophagy is the practice of eating insects, especially by people.

Erinaceous snowflake

1. A sharp tongued and demanding person who is exceedingly difficult to please and, if given the choice, you would dearly love to bludgeon to death yet, for some reason, you must continue to treat as if they fart rainbows.
2. A member of your family who you are required to give special treatment to but feel it would be best to take them out the back and percussively educate them.
3. An elderly relative who must be handled carefully.

Erinaceous means something that resembles a hedgehog.

Eyas

This word literally means an unfledged falcon or other bird of prey but in this context refers to a young or childish woman who is predatory or in some other way is a danger to men (jailbait). Also refers disparagingly to a woman who is likely to be a cougar in later life.

Fakkick

As in “you useless **fakkick**”, “like a pointless **fakkick**”. This swear includes many of basic features of a good swearword much like the more common swear I am sure you just thought of. An aggressive start at the front of the mouth and hard stop at the “K” with the bonus of an encore.

Alternates include spelling with “ck” in place of the “kk” and various substitutions on the vowel sounds. Common variants include “fakkok” and “fackak”. Fakkick and variations thereof sound like most effective swears and are satisfying to proclaim in an angry voice but lack any real world meaning.

Foul Nosed Gilly Manderer

A person for whom you self-evidently have a strong dislike.

Frister

1. One who frists.
2. Someone who does things no one else likes.

Comes from my habit of mistyping “first” by getting to the “r” before the “i”. If you identify extended meanings in your work please do let me know.

Fugging *

An all purpose drop in swear that sounds kind of mild while still being reasonably satisfying to say. As in **fugging-hell**, **abso-fugging-lutely**, and so forth. Fug is a word that means a warm, stuffy or smoky atmosphere in a room.

Gadzookerist

One overly given to archaisms in everyday speech and thus asking for a very violent education in the common tongue. Possibly also a *foul nosed gilly manderer*.

Gar

A mild oath, according to the internet anyway.

The Merriam-webster dictionary says gar is an euphemism for God (well, duh).

First Known Use: 1598

Genesic Gewgaw

1. A person whose only contribution to a relationship is physical.
2. A person who is remarkably non-selective or non fussy about sexual partners and appears to never use the word “no” in such a context.

Gewgaw is a toy, trifling object, or bauble; genesic is of, like or pertaining to procreation or the genitals.

Gravel noser

A spineless *fakkick* who is far too quick to begin grovelling. This *divaricate truther* is likely to sell you out to save his own skin at the first hint of trouble.

Gundi

1. A small or apparently weak person that fakes peacefulness or passivity but with the intention of harming you when you least expect it, a person of low value, an untrustworthy lowlife. Literally a small desert-dwelling rodent of northern Africa with bristles on its feet.
2. Someone who attempts to achieve through violence or aggression something better achieved through peaceful means. A phonetic portmanteau of Gun and Gandhi (a man of peace).

Haslick

1. Someone who is supremely unattractive. As in “I am not going out with her she's a total *haslick*.”
2. To date or sleep with someone to get what you want. For example: “She plans to *haslick* the manager until she gets that promotion.”
3. To befriend a deeply unpleasant person for the purposes of social advancement.

Hässlich is the German word for ugly and one would imagine (in your story's universe) that it has seeped into the English language as an insult.

Update: In October 2015 I got round to watching Grimm; Episode 19 featured creatures called Hasslichen because playing around with words is fun, clearly.

Haslicker

1. One of such low self-esteem that they only date ugly and unattractive people or being so deeply unpleasant or such a haslick themselves can only get dates with unattractive persons.
2. One that dates or has sex for social or financial advancement.
3. A person that will be friends with anyone if it gets them what they want.

Has the distinct advantage of sounding very much like a fairly well known insulting, but mild, swear of similar meaning.

See also: *Haslick*.

Hasser

The least attractive member of the group, one who is by comparison not so attractive. “Whenever I hang out with the models from work I know that I am the **hasser**.” or “I think he settled for a **hasser** because he was sick of other guys stealing his girl.” *See also Haslick.*

Iatrarchy

1. The killjoys who won't let you do anything exciting on the rather spurious grounds that it will probably kill you (or shorten your life considerably). That they are often right is no comfort at all.
2. When a person who has a long term sickness finds that their life is now entirely dictated by doctors, they are **ruled by the iatrarchy**.
3. When all the fun things are banned due to being “bad for you” this is a **victory of the iatrarchy**. The ban of smoking in public is an example of this.

Iatrarchy means rule or government by physicians.

Ingane embongolweni

Term of disparagement indicating that the subject is of uniquely low and worthless birth and that their parentage is, additionally, questionable. Variants include "**embongolweni of a sick ingane**" this is rarer, although possibly more satisfying to shout.

Zulu, meaning "Donkey Child". Probably not an actual Zulu idiom.

Illuminate the light-bulb

When someone is said to have illuminated the light-bulb, the suggestion is that they cast light where none was needed. In other words, they have said the very obvious.

See also: Light(ing) my bulb, and Light a candle for another, don't

Janiform friend

1. The kind of person who is only your friend while in your company but is likely to betray you at a later date. If you are lucky, they may wait until you leave before they stick the knife in.
2. The kind of friend that you can rely on to be an entirely different person around certain company (for example, your parents) to the person they are in other situations. Especially valuable if they are able to rapidly switch between the two.

Janiform means something with two faces.

Janitrix

Literally, a female janitor. A wife whose only purpose is to cook and clean. Sometimes refers to a woman who has married above her station or a woman from a poor background in a loveless marriage who (a richer and often far busier) man has married in order to have clean well ironed shirts. May be used to refer to a woman whose main qualification as a wife is that they are good at housework; suggesting they are unattractive and otherwise mostly useless.

Example usage: "He spends all his time with his mistress these days and never so much as looks at me, I'm stuck at home being his **janitrix**."

Example usage: "Poor, unattractive Jane – she's simply a **janitrix** in waiting."

Kalon *

Refers to one or more women whose beauty is probably just skin deep. "The local night life's not too bad plenty of *kalons* to look at." As in **kalon date** (a woman you are dating for her looks alone), **kalon wife** (a trophy wife; see also: Bourgeois Hamster), **kalon chick** (a girl with little more than her looks going for her), **kalon bitch** (unpleasant woman who is nevertheless attractive to look at), **kalons** (many kalon). This is a real word although it mostly refers to the embodiment of perfect (Greek classical) beauty.

Lagotic Gasser

1. One that listens in on other people's conversations in order to gossip about them. Someone who seems to hear everything that is said or has a tendency to repeat everything they hear.
2. The go-to person when you wish to rapidly spread a juicy discovery about a frenemy.

Lagotic refers to something having big ears like a hare.

Lemon Faced Rat

A sour woman with an almost permanent disapproving look about her face. Often having pursed lips vaguely resembling the posterior of a rat.

The first known usage of this phrase (for me) was when a quick witted friend said something similar in reference to my ex-wife. Her reaction caused her to pull said face which was instantly funny and utterly memorable. She did not see the funny side of it, having had a sense of humour by-pass that day.

Labiomancing Pirate

A *lagotic gasser* gifted in the art of lip reading. Thus, the **labiomancer** is a danger to your privacy if they can so much as see you. Cover your mouth while speaking.

Light(ing) my bulb

See Illuminate the light-bulb

Most often used in a deeply sarcastic way with a meaning similar to Illuminated the light-bulb the original meaning is something that causes you to realise what should have been obvious. This has led to the insulting offer to **light your bulb** suggesting that you were too dumb to understand.

Light a candle for another, don't

See Illuminate the light-bulb

1. Do not say something that everyone already knows.
2. Do not be the idiot that explains something which needs no explanation.

A fictional forerunner of lighting my bulb. One could easily imagine that this was a folk saying although I made it up one morning when I had nothing better to do.

Lypemaniac

The sort of social leper that you should never invite to a party due to an almost supernatural ability to depress even the irritatingly cheerful.

Lypemania is extreme pathological mournfulness

Malpa Calujessa (малпа цалуецца)

1. A social deviant, one incapable of normal human behaviour.
2. Also as a general insult.

From Belarusian meaning Monkey Kisser. Belarus is a landlocked country in Eastern Europe, Earth. I have no idea what the people of Belarus actually think of monkeys or those that might kiss them so this is probably not an idiom they use.

Mare Grossa

1. An intimidatingly ugly woman.
2. A boy so skinny his mother must be eating his dinner for him.

Literally fat mother in Catalan (says Google).

Mother Slapper

A diss overtly indicating that the person is or was a badly behaved child and that their parents were unable to control them. I am sure we all know what it is a stand in for.

Mud Flapper

Suggestive of a fish out of water - flapping about in the mud. A complex insult with roots going back to the 1920 and the “Flappers” but also the registered trademark Mudflap Girl of 2009 America. It suggests that someone is doing their best to be different and yet fashionable while being devoid of any personality or depth of beauty. It generally indicates a person who is dressed in a “slutty” outfit that does not suit them (perhaps because their body is too old or the wrong shape). Indicates that the person is fairly low intelligence and devoid of personality with mediocre looks. Given half a chance this person is as likely to flap around in the mud (like a pig) as actually get anywhere in life. May also refer to a party girl who is ageing particularly disgracefully and is no longer in her prime but refuses to stop wearing revealing dresses. However feel free to be creative with your application of this insult.

Muz *

As in **muz-licker**, **muz-sucker**, **muz-gobbler**, **muz-head** or **muz-bucket**. Muz is Turkish for banana so we can only imagine that, at some point in your fictional universe's past, Turkish speaking and English speaking folks mingled a lot. Muz has the added advantage of being genetically short and versatile.

While muz literally means a slightly curved yellow fruit, I am sure we all know what the speaker is really talking about.

Nar Head

A person who is supremely ungifted when it comes to thinking clearly.

Nar is Yiddish for fool.

Notch Nabbler

1. A person (usually a male) that will literally sleep with anyone, or at least claim to have, in order to inflate the quantity of their reported conquests.
2. Someone whose boasts are questionable at best.

Usage example: “Gary claims he slept with Linda last week but he is such a **Notch Nabbler** that I wouldn't be surprised if all they did was play cards.”

Obganiater

The sort of person that robs you of your will to live by constantly monopolising your time to talk about the same *fugging* thing, over, and, over, and, over... Oh dear *gar*, kill me now!

Obganiate means to irritate someone by constantly repeating oneself

Octad of fails

A person who fails so hard at life that they do it in blocks of eight. A person who is impressively bad at something. Living proof that it is possible to be worse at something than a dead monkey.

An octad is a set of eight things.

Pathicus

One who is passive and likes to be on the receiving end. This is a swear word that comes from the ancient Romans (who despised passivity).

These variants do not come from Romans: **personal pathicus** (Someone's "bitch", personal punch bag, or slave), **prison pathicus** (an inmate who exchanges sexual favours with a stronger inmate for protection or other gain), **emergency pathicus** (a scape goat, person blamed for something as an excuse, the go-to person on whose shoulders all responsibility for failure is placed).

Usage example: "I'll be your **emergency pathicus**. If your wife finds out just blame it all on me."

Planet Poker

The suggestion that the person so named does, attempts, or has done, something that is wrong, stupid, or impossible.

Puž lice

(Alt: **Puss-lice**, **putz lice**, etc)

See also: Snail Face

1. A person with extremely low personal hygiene standards.
2. A person who, through inebriation, ended up sleeping outside all night.

*The first form is literally what happens if you ask Google to translate "snail face" into Bosnian. Variants might include **podg-lytsa** (phonetically closer).*

Raging snot bomb

1. A general purpose insult.
2. To come down with a snot inducing cold or flu'; as in, I've caught the **raging snot bomb**.

Raging snot bomb, to be hit by the

1. To catch the bug that is going round.
2. To have been sneezed all over and thus covered in *sclee*.
3. To be given the one task at work that everyone is avoiding because it cannot be done or is a nightmare of unrewarding work.

Sclee

(Alt: Sklie, Scklee, etc)

A mild swear that refers in a literal sense to things that come out of the body. Can be used in much the same way as many other general purpose swears (see chiff) but has some unique idioms. **Sclee-pit** (an untidy place), **sclee-in-the-skull** (much like **sclee-for-brains**, a stupid person), **no-sclee** ("you don't say", almost always sarcastic), **sclee-pot** (a loathsome and dislikeable fellow)...

Sclee puppy

1. A general purpose insult suggesting immaturity and a mild absence of desirableness.
2. The person that just sneezed on you.

Shim

1. A person whose gender is not apparent (a portmanteau of she and him).
2. A general purpose “drop in” swear (see *chiff*).

Shim shover

(Alt: **Shim shoveller**)

See also: Shim

1. A person doing a pointless or worthless task.
2. Someone who digs up random shim on others and spreads it around hoping to cause them social embarrassment.
3. Someone who spreads lies about another person but does not do it very well.

Snail Face

See also: Puž lice

1. A very hung-over person who looks like they passed out in the garden and had snails crawling over them all night. Heaven alone knows what they have actually been up to and it might be better not to ask.
2. Someone who fell asleep and ended up drooling over themselves such that they now look like snails have been walking across their face.

Tepid boghog

1. Ineffective, limp, impotent or generally worthless and yet taking up far more time and/or resources than is deserved.

Example usage: “I refuse to spend any more money on that **tepid boghog** of a motorbike, first thing tomorrow I'm trading it in for something better.”

2. Used to describe a person who will not make up their mind.

Example usage: “That guy's a **tepid boghog**! One minute he loves ice cream, then he hates it the next.”

I have no idea what a boghog is but it sounds good.

Tittynope

A word that exists in several dictionaries “words under consideration” lists and supposedly means, a small amount of anything that is leftover. Far too funny sounding to not be included here.

Trouser stain

A person that you deeply dislike and are embarrassed to be seen with and yet, for some reason, you cannot get rid of.

Underdeveloped Newt

A childish and under-equipped person of little value or utility.

Unwissender Affe

Literally from the German meaning “ignorant ape” because German is such a great language for inventing new swears apparently. Potential variant forms include **Unwisnderaffe** or **Unwistneraffe** both of which are entirely fictional corruptions.

Urine Thief

One that has gone too far and is taking liberties.

Vaaljapie sipper

Someone who makes a great show of drinking wine but having either no taste or no money drinks the cheapest stuff going.

Vaaljapie means inferior wine.

Vacive head

A person of minimal intelligence and understanding.

Example usage: Don't ask Bob, he's a **Vacive headed** *shim*

Vacive means empty.

Vented Toilet Air

1. A person who is the social equivalent of a stale fart.
2. Empty promises.

Yawning sphincter

1. A deeply unlikeable person.
2. A person incapable of speaking the truth.
3. An impressively ugly person.

Zaftig

See also: Dicken Bauch

Having a full or rounded figure. In other words a very fat person. An actual English word but sufficiently obscure that it is bound to be quite fun to try and use it as a swear somewhere.

Zelotic Gasser

A person keen so keen on gossiping that you might be forgiven for thinking that gossiping was a religion and they were a newly converted zealot.

Zoo Leavings

A person who is not simply comparable to regular dung but the entire combined output of a small zoo.

Example usage: “You sir, are the moral equivalent of **Zoo Leavings**”

Example usage: “Do you have **Zoo Leavings** for brains? You left the handbrake off again.”

Example usage: “I had my doubts. His story stank worse than last week's **Zoo Leavings**.”

Amusing insults

- You are a gay porn film with all the homoerotic undertones of a side salad.
- You are less desirable than the yawning sphincter of a the proverbial lemon faced rat
- You are so fat you would have to go on the most monumental crash diet just to be considered zaftig; In fact dicken bauch would be a considerable downgrade for you.
- You sir, are the moral equivalent of last week's Zoo Leavings
- You epitomise what it means to be considered a trouser stain with half the sexual attractiveness of vented toilet air. So much so that the lowest ankle licking urine thief looks down on you. In short, you are a raging snot bomb!

Credits and Legal Stuff

This collection of inventive invective was compiled by Matthew Brown. It was created as a resource to help him provide his own characters with inventive insults in a sci-fi and fantasy context. However, because made up swears are both hard to come up with and fun to use he felt it would be a nice idea to share this with other writers.

As such, you are invited to use these words and phrases in your own work for free as long as the work in question credits the Fictional Dictionary of Bad Language and mentions Matthew by name. As a kindness to other writers and to your readers who might enjoy this work, I ask but do not insist that you provide a link or URL whereby people can find this work for themselves.

If your work is later published, Matthew asks that you consider sending him a signed copy of said work as a thank you. The plan is that future editions of the fictional dictionary should have references to published works using the words so at the very least, do please let him know.

If your work of fiction contains a dictionary of words, you are invited to make fair use⁴ of the definitions provided with the words but really should think about not only that signed copy but taking Matthew out for a drink.

Matthew can be found on twitter as @lordmatt

Matthew maintains a blog at <http://lordmatt.co.uk/> where you can probably find the most up to date edition of the fictional dictionary among other things.

You should feel free to pass around a PDF copy of the fictional dictionary among your friends but you should not sell it or bundle it with other items or provide it as part of an incentive package without getting permission from Matthew first.

4 Fair use means fair, a few excerpts would be fair while whole pages of the book would be stealing.